

**FILED**

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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
ANNA COOK, RN	:	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
License #26NO08556500	:	OF LICENSE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN	:	
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	
	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

1. Anna Cook ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse ("RN") in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all relevant times. (Exhibit A).

2. Respondent entered into a Private Letter Agreement ("PLA") with the Board on September 16, 2015. The PLA required,

in part, that Respondent enroll in and comply with the Board's designated intervention program, the Recovery and Monitoring Program ("RAMP"), to undergo evaluation, monitoring, and treatment, including random screens. The agreement, which was to remain private and confidential unless and until the Board received reliable information that Respondent had violated any term, was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. (Exhibit B).

3. Respondent failed to refrain from the use of a potentially addictive substance (alcohol) as evidenced by testing positive for alcohol on September 25, 2015. (Exhibit C).

4. Respondent ceased participating with RAMP in January 2016. Respondent failed to check-in on a daily basis with the online monitoring system which randomly schedules screens and ceased checking-in as of January 13, 2016. Respondent failed to undergo a randomly scheduled screen on January 19, 2016 and failed to attend peer support meetings after December 23, 2015. (Exhibit C).

5. Respondent failed to follow recommendations of RAMP by failing to respond to RAMP's efforts to redirect her towards compliance. (Exhibit C).

6. Respondent failed to successfully complete RAMP and

was discharged from RAMP as noncompliant on January 26, 2016.  
(Exhibit C).

7. RAMP cannot assure the Board or the public that Respondent is safe to practice. (Exhibit C).

8. On May 4, 2016, a communication was sent to Respondent at her address of record by overnight and regular mail, advising Respondent that the Board had received information indicating that she was not in compliance with the PLA, and with her agreement with RAMP. Respondent was further advised to provide the Board with proof of any inaccuracy in that information within two weeks. (Exhibit D). No response was received.

9. The PLA signed by Respondent provided for automatic suspension of Respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that Respondent had violated any term of the private letter agreement. The agreement states that Respondent may, upon notice to the Board, request a hearing to contest the automatic suspension; however, at any such hearing, the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding Respondent's violation of the agreement was materially false. The Board also reserved the right to bring further disciplinary action. (Exhibit B).

10. Respondent violated the PLA by: failing to refrain

from the use of a potentially addictive substance (alcohol) as evidenced by testing positive for alcohol on September 25, 2015; failing to check-in on a daily basis with the online monitoring system which randomly schedules screens, as of January 13, 2016; failing to undergo a randomly scheduled screen on January 19, 2016; failing to attend peer support meetings; failing to follow recommendations of RAMP by failing to respond to RAMP's efforts to redirect her towards compliance; ceasing participation with RAMP; and failing to successfully complete RAMP and being discharged from RAMP as noncompliant on January 26, 2016. Each violation of the PLA constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), and automatic suspension of her license as provided in the PLA.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016,  
HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for her violation of the terms of the private letter agreement as set forth above, which is a violation of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).


2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter

agreement, request a hearing, upon notice, on the sole issue of whether information received that Respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement was materially false.

3. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board will not entertain an application for reinstatement from Respondent unless and until Respondent completes a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation under the auspices of RAMP, demonstrates that she is fit and competent to practice nursing, that she is in full compliance with any agreement with RAMP, that RAMP supports her return to practice, and in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the private letter agreement.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Murphy", written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President